

the most conservative report was 134 killed, 22 wounded and 3 missing. Other estimates range as high as 600 killed and missing. Seventy-five businesses and nearly 100 homes were destroyed.

Plans for a college in Lawrence were proposed as early as 1856. Lawrence was designated the site of the state university in 1863 and in September, 1866 The University of Kansas held its first session with 49 students and 3 faculty members.

As the Civil War drew to a close, a economic growth in Lawrence was rapid. In 1864 a toll bridge across the Kaw River was completed. In the same year the Kansas Pacific railroad (now the Union Pacific) reached Lawrence. An influx of new settlers following the Civil War brought many new businesses and industries to Lawrence. By 1880 the population exceeded 8,000.

In 1884 Haskell Institute opened with 17 pupils. Haskell was destined to become the foremost Indian school in the country. Haskell is also a registered National Historic landmark.

Since the turn of the century, the history of Lawrence has been one of steady growth and expansion. Such setbacks as have occurred—the floods of 1903 and 1951, the great wars, the depression—have been temporary only and have been followed by periods of accelerated progress.

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Historic



Haskell Indian Institute Stadium Arch

Lawrence

From its beginning the history of Lawrence has been filled with drama and significance to the state and the nation. Few communities can claim so rich a tradition.

For a period of more than fifty years following the Louisiana Purchase, in 1803, the region in which Lawrence is located remained as Indian Country. Members of the Shawnee and Delaware tribes were moved to reservations in the vicinity of Lawrence prior to 1830. During the same period, Lewis and Clark, Fremont and other great pathfinders passed near or through the area, followed by the traders, gold seekers, settlers and others moving west in ever increasing numbers. The Santa Fe Trail followed the ridge line a few miles to the south of Lawrence, while the California Road or Oregon Trail passed through the site of the present city of Lawrence.

Kansas was organized as a territory and opened for settlement in 1854. Most critical among the problems confronting the new territory was the troublesome issue of slavery. According to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, by which the territory was created, the settlers would determine whether slavery would be permitted or prohibited in Kansas. The result was a spirited competition between the states of the north and the south in promoting emigration to Kansas and a bitter struggle within the territory for control of the ballot box and the territorial government.

Lawrence became a focal point of Free State activity. On August 1, 1854, a party of 29 settlers, mostly New Englanders,

established a town on the south bank of the Kaw, which was called by various names—"Wakarusa," "New Boston" and "Yankee Town." On September 18 a second party of 114 settlers arrived. Following their arrival the town was formally named Lawrence, in honor of Amos A. Lawrence, a leading supporter of the New England Emigrant Aid Society, which had sponsored the migration to Lawrence.

The town's early years were marked by strife between anti-slavery partisans who were in the majority in Lawrence and pro-slavery forces from Lecompton and neighboring areas. Jim Lane, later a United States Senator, and Charles Robinson, first Governor of the state, were Lawrence residents and were front rank leaders of the Free State group. The "Wakarusa War" of November, 1855, threatened but did not produce serious damage to the town. The following year a raid by pro-slavery forces, led by Sheriff Jones who claimed to be acting under a warrant, destroyed the hotel, newspapers, several businesses and the home of Charles Robinson.

In 1861, a few weeks before the outbreak of the Civil War, Kansas became a state. Lawrence was by that time one of the most important towns in the state—narrowly missing becoming the state capital. On August 21, 1863, a band of Confederate guerrillas led by William C. Quantrill raided Lawrence in the early morning hours leaving the town in ruins. The number of persons killed has never been definitely ascertained—